

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL NOTES.

CHLORIDE OF ZINC INJECTIONS.—M. Lanne's long treatment of tubercular diseases, as brought under the notice of the Paris Academy, is essentially based on the simple fact that fibrous induration is to be regarded as the natural curative process of tubercular change; and it having been found that chloride of zinc is peculiarly apt to excite such sclerotic processes when administered in sufficiently small quantity—two or three drops of a 10 per cent solution, as to relieve its most powerful excretive action, this substance has been employed yielding satisfactory results in external tuberculosis, and its application in the case of pulmonary tuberculosis, is, according to M. Lanne, equally encouraging. It would appear from the accounts given of the treatment that this method is not without its disadvantages by the agent—which has no specific properties—but are the healthy tissues that surround the tubercles. The aim of the Lanne long method is, therefore, to induce the formation of a densely fibrous tissue, which is to active tubercle, and thus to limit its progress to the dead product, and as it were to imprison the bacilli.

BRAIN POWER IN CHILDREN.—Some attention has been directed to a paper read by Dr. Leo Burgenstein, of Vienna, before the late hydric conference, on "The Working Curve of an Hour." To demonstrate the fluctuation of brain power in children, he collected two classes of little girls and two of little boys, the children's ages being eleven and twelve years, and set them to work on easy sums in arithmetic for successive periods of ten minutes, with five-minute intervals of rest; then the results of the work, the calculations and the errors were carefully tabulated and compared. The total number of calculations made by all the children increased slightly, speaking, 4,300,000,000 in the second, third and fourth periods, respectively. During the period of ten minutes the increase of work done was not so great as at other periods; the number of mistakes also increased, says 450,700, 350 in the different periods—here, again, during the third period, there appears that children of the ages mentioned become fatigued in three-quarters of an hour; that the organic material is gradually exhausted; and that the power of work gradually diminishes to a certain point, after which it begins to recover, and during the remaining portion of the hour, to return with renewed force in the fourth quarter. This experiment is regarded as demonstrating that conditions work for school children of these ages, even though the tasks are not difficult, ought not to last longer than three-quarters of an hour.

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